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WORSLEY URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.


INTERIM REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1947.





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Worsley Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council : Councillor J. BOND, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1947.

Councillor ERNEST MANN, Chairman.

Councillor J. E. TAYLOR, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman of the Council	Mrs. A. Lightbown, J.P.
Mr. F. S. Potter	Mr. J. Haydock
Mr. A. Williams	Mr. J. Pennington, J.C., C.C.
Mr. J. Eastham, J.P., C.A.	Mrs. M. Wood
Mr. W. A. Richardson	Mr. Ernest Roscoe
Mr. E. H. Marsh	

Clerk of the Council—

H. LOMAX, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health—

M. K. CARROLL, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., N.U.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

T. ISHERWOOD,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

F. HAWORTH, M.S.I.A.

Lady Clerks and Typists—

Mrs. A. HALLAM.

Miss M. MORRIS.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Worsley.

August, 1948.

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Worsley.

The Birth Rate of 21.9 per 1,000 is higher than that of last year which was 17.6 per 1,000, and is higher than the average of England and Wales which is 20.5 per 1,000.

The Ante-natal, post-natal and Baby Welfare Clinics have been carried out systematically at the Park Road Clinic under the L.C.C. organisation.

The Death Rate 11.9 is lower than the 12.1 per 1,000 last year and lower than the average of 12 per 1,000 for the rest of the country.

The acute conditions causing death were chiefly due to malignant and cardio-vascular diseases and occurred chiefly among people of mature age.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—I regret to state this is on the increase throughout the country, but our admissions for the year were 24 new cases against 26 the previous year, with 4 deaths in 1947 against 5 the previous year. It seems to attack both sexes equally and though some were young adults others were about middle age.

Diphtheria.—After freedom from Diphtheria for 15 months we had one case in December which was a girl of 16 who had been in contact with a case at school in an adjoining town.

Immunisation sessions have been carried out regularly and have been well attended. This organisation has appealed tremendously to the mothers and I scarcely think there is a baby in the district of nine months old who has not been immunised.

Measles.—There have been a few cases recently. The children seemed poorly for a few days and then began to improve most dramatically.

German Measles.—There have been several cases amongst adults as well as amongst children.

Whooping Cough.—There have been cases of Whooping Cough from time to time. This infection is difficult to control as in the first stage there is nothing more than symptoms of catarrh. After 14 days there is the characteristic cough with a certain degree of sickness, the cough often more troublesome during the night than in the day time.

I have tried inoculating against whooping cough but so far I cannot say that I have met with much success.

Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis.—There were 9 cases of Polio-myelitis and 4 cases of Polio-encephalitis notified. There were no deaths among the former but two of the latter were fatal.

The first case in the district was a girl of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years who resided in the centre of Walkden and who had been on a visit to Southport previously. The second case was a boy of 3 years who lived at Stable Fold, the last houses in this District. We could trace no contact whatever between these cases.

The third case occurred in Little Hulton; a boy of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and here again there did not appear to be any means of contact with previous cases.

None of the cases had ever been in contact with each other in this district.

Polio-encephalitis.—Two of these cases proved fatal. The first was a man of 27 years who died within a few hours of being admitted to hospital and the other was a baby boy of 11 months. Both of these were widely separated and there was no possible contact.

In addition to the above we were notified of a woman and two children who died of Encephalitis in hospitals in other districts. These have to be accepted by us as transferable deaths as they were previously residents in Worsley. We had no notification at the time of the illness.

Overcrowding.—I regret to say there is still gross overcrowding in parts of our district. We are doing our best for the extreme cases but the difficulties are tremendous. The prefabricated type of house has undoubtedly helped considerably in dealing with the situation but it is not an easy matter to find houses for couples who were married either

before or during the World War. This appears to be the chief cause of overcrowding. However, the good work is going on regularly and thoroughly and I have hopes that most of these evils will be remedied in the near future.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the members of the Public Health Department who have helped and carried out their duties so satisfactorily during the year.

Table I. - STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—7,242 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of:—

(a) resident population mid 1947 ... 26,970

(b) average population for calculation
of death rates 1947 26,970

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1947—8,346.

Rateable Value 1947—£144,563

Sum represented by a penny rate 1947—£544.

Table II. - VITAL STATISTICS, 1947.

			Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—21.9.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	576	309	267	
	Illegitimate	...	16	8	8	
	Total	...	<u>592</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>295</u>	
Still Births	...	...	17	10	7	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—27.0.
Deaths (all ages)	...	...	323	157	166	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population—11.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.
Other puerperal causes		Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	42.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...				43.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...				Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping-cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

The Birth Rate (21.9) is higher than that for England and Wales (20.5) and the Death Rate (11.9) is lower (12.0).

The Infantile Mortality Rate (42.0) is higher than that for England and Wales (41.0).

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF CAUSES.

					Males	Females
Carcinoma, stomach	...	...	...	...	7	5
„ other forms	...	...	...	...	11	24
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	4	1
Tuberculosis other forms	...	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	10	10
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	4	3
Congenital Malformation	...	..	...	...	6	6
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	6
Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	.	...	—	2
Acute Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	2	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	17	29
Heart Diseases	...	..	...	...	56	42
Other Diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	5	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3
Road Accidents	...	...	...	...	5	2
Other Violent causes	...	...	...	...	4	2
All other causes	...	...	...	...	12	10
All Causes:—					157	166
TOTAL					...	323

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no important change in these provisions during the year.

The following pathological and bacteriological examinations were made during 1947 :

- (1) Diphtheria, 17.
- (2) Scarlet Fever, 14.
- (3) Malaria, 1.
- (4) Water, 6.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are provided by arrangement with the National Coal Board. Two saloon cars for sitting cases are now used in addition. This service has been much appreciated. The ambulance made 713 journeys during the year and the saloon cars 875 journeys and conveyed 1606 patients.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, RIVERS AND STREAMS.—

Many streams in the district are polluted.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION—

No changes have occurred.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS—

A detailed statement of inspections by the Senior Sanitary Inspector is appended.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Defects which have been found or notified have received attention.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Licences.—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938, have been issued :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(1) Bottling	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2) Distribution	...	...	...	Nil.

Accredited Milk	(1)	Bottling	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2)	Distribution	...	...	...	Nil.
Pasteurised Milk	(1)	Plants	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2)	Retail Distributors	...	...	...	3

(b) Dairies, Milk Shops.—There are 58 milk purveyors other than cowkeepers. Regular inspections of the premises were made during the year.

(c) Farms.—There are 30 dairy farms and 560 cows in the District. All the farms were inspected at least twice during the year with a view to cleanliness, lime-washing and structural condition. The cleanliness of the cows and of the milkers was also watched, together with methods for sterilising the utensils, cooling, bottling and sterilising the milk. Scarcity of labour has been blamed for a lower standard of cleanliness, particularly with regard to milk bottles. This is receiving special attention.

(d) Samples.

(1) For tuberculous milk—12 samples were taken.

All were found to be free from Tubercle Bacilli.

(2) For bacterial content—

(a) 37 samples Methylene Blue test.

16 were unsatisfactory.

(b) 37 samples B Coli test.

9 were unsatisfactory.

The farms producing milk with a high bacterial content were visited and instructions given.

MEAT SUPPLY.

All local slaughter-houses ceased to be used on Sunday midnight, the 14th January, 1940.

BAKEHOUSES, FOOD SHOPS, FISH FRYERS, AND MEAT SHOPS—

Routine inspections have been made during the year. There are no unusual circumstances to report.

**Section F.—Prevalence of, and Control Over,
Infectious Disease.**

Table IV.

Disease	Corr'cted Total of notified cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	13	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1	1	—
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	171	—	—
Whooping cough	20	—	—
Erysipelas... ..	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	6	2	—
Polio-encephalitis	4	4	2
Polio-myelitis	9	9	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorium	4	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	1
Total number of cases ...	244	32	3

TABLE V.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DISEASE.	Total cases at all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.												Age un-known
		Under 1 yr.	YEARS.									65 and over		
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		45-65	
Scarlet Fever ...	24	—	—	5	—	3	6	6	2	—	1	—	—	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup ...)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding German Measles ...)	171	6	—	60	—	62	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Whooping Cough...	20	2	—	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia ...	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	9	—	4	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Acute Polio Encephalitis	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals ...	244	17	53	70	—	70	10	13	5	1	2	—	3	

DIPHtheria immunisation.

The actual numbers of children immunised under the Council's scheme during 1947 are as follows:—

Age 1—5 years	Age 5—15 years	Total.
236	108	344

Percentage of children immunised :

		Age 1—5 years.		Age 5—15 years.	
31st December, 1944	... ..	71%		74%	
„ „ 1945	... ..	63%		62%	
„ „ 1946	... ..	65%		88%	
„ „ 1947	... ..	55%		86.5%	

By arrangement with the County Police, diphtheria antitoxin is stored at Walkden Police Station, as well as at the Town Hall. It is available day and night for doctors in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table VII.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry		Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years	0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	1—5	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
„	5—10	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
„	10—15	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
„	15—20	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	20—25	...	...	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
„	25—35	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	35—45	...	...	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
„	45—55	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
„	55—65	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
„	65 & upwards	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals				12	6	4	2	3	1	—	—
				24				4			

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1940-42.

These Regulations require particulars of all persons of certain specified ages who have been on the Tuberculosis Register to be forwarded to the Ministry of Labour; the object is to draw the attention of the Medical Boards for enlistment in His Majesty's Forces. There was one case notified in 1947.

CANAL BOATS.

Twenty-five inspections were made during the year and conditions found to be satisfactory. No women or children were living on board the boats; in no case was there more than one male living on board. No infectious disease occurred and there was no contravention of any of the regulations.

M. K. CARROLL,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1947.

Town Hall,
Walkden.

August, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of
Worsley Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during 1947.

There appears to be an improvement in connection with the repair of property—materials are not plentiful but things are beginning to move, although there is a tremendous amount of neglect and dilapidation to be remedied.

Housing is progressing and a decided start was made during the year. 115 houses were completed by the Council, and 12 houses built by private contractors. At the end of the year 71 others were in the process of erection, and a further 36 were contemplated.

Although a large number of people are applying for Council houses the immediate need, according to the Housing Manager who has kindly supplied me with the information, is as follows :—

Single Persons or Aged Persons, Bungalows or Maisonettes	186
2 Bedroom type Houses	212
3 Bedroom type Houses	183
4 Bedroom type Houses	37
Total	618

The Ambulance Service has been able to meet all requirements. The National Coal Board Ambulance has again given excellent service and carried 668 patients, making a total of 713 journeys.

Our Car Service has continued to be greatly appreciated and the demands have been greater than ever. The Cars made 875 journeys and carried 938 patients. The combined services made 1588 journeys and carried 1606 patients during the year.

Our car service covered 18,324 miles in conveying patients to and from hospitals. Our only difficulty has been to convince would-be passengers that it is an ambulance service and not a free taxi service.

The need for Salvage is still as great as ever but it is more difficult to obtain, as many people are under the impression that it no longer matters.

We increased our Paper collection from 111 tons to 127 tons, which we sold for £718, a welcome increase of £147 over the previous year.

Kitchen Waste shows a decrease of 19 tons. This is due to the increased number of licences issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to private collectors, but as the waste food is being utilized in the district by local pig and poultry keepers it is not altogether lost.

Our income from the sale of Salvage was £67 higher than during the previous year.

The most disturbing feature of the year's work was the deplorable increase in the amount of food which had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption, some of it so bad that it could not be utilized as pig food. A disastrous fire at a food store accounted for quite a large proportion of this, for what was not damaged by fire was spoilt by the water.

The total amount condemned during the year was 4 tons 0 cwt. 8 lbs. against 1 ton 15 cwt. 40 lbs. the previous year.

The detailed list will give some idea of the amount of time taken up by this branch of the work but, as compensation, there were no cases of Food Poisoning in Worsley District during the year.

Routine work is proceeding as usual. We are not breaking records but we are not losing ground. Complaints are received and investigated and if anything is required we try to remedy the defects. Rats are dealt with according to Rodent Control instructions and insecticides are given out when necessary. There is no increase in the number of complaints of either rats or vermin.

Licences are issued for the sale of milk, for the storage of petrol, for hawkers, and for the manufacture of ice cream. The latter are increasing and the premises and processes are satisfactory.

Bakehouses and food premises are examined, farms, dairies and factories are visited, and canal boats are kept under observation. We have taken an increased number of milk samples which have been generally satisfactory. We have not had a single sample of milk which contained the tubercle bacilli.

The County Sanitary Inspectors have co-operated with us in connection with the designated farms, and in the sampling of milk and other foods, under the Food and Drugs Act.

The Bonus scheme which was suggested for salvage collections has been held up for the time being on the advice of the National Joint Council, as they are exploring the possibilities of a general bonus system. I believe that such a scheme would stimulate effort and result in much better collections. The waste material is in the district and could be salvaged by increased co-operation.

Taken as a whole it has been a quiet year. We lost several of our young bin men who had been in the Services, and have had to replace them by older men.

I am satisfied with my workmen. They are doing a good job and are pulling their weight under the capable control of my Foreman, Mr. Owen.

We have Three Vulcan Wagons with steel trailers, two Karrier Bantams and a new C.K. 3 Karrier which is proving good value. We are now collecting approximately 5,500 tons of refuse yearly which is disposed of by controlled tipping at Berryfield.

The following detailed lists give some indication of the various activities of the Department.

OVERCROWDING.

Houses overcrowded	190
Families dwelling therein	269
Persons dwelling therein	1047
Overcrowding relieved	98
Persons concerned	607

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Housing inspected for defects	317
Housing inspections for above	1020
Number rendered fit	150
Roofs defective	48
Choked drains	53
Eavesgutters	45
Plastering	71
Damp walls	86
Downspouts	9

Chimneys	6
Window Frames	21
Firegrates	24
Stairs	1
Cracked walls	2
Sinks	5
Cellars	5
Burst Pipes	6
Escape of Gas	4
Dustbins	20
Floorboards	19
Washboilers	5
Water under floor	2
Defective lavatories	31
Rats	28
Bugs	2
Cockroaches	2
Fowls a nuisance	3
Canal Boats	25
Dairies	58
Schools	14
Factories	9
Farms	70
Bakehouses	60
Shops	53
Infectious Diseases	46
Tuberculosis	24
Disinfections	54
Miscellaneous	51

FOOD CONDEMNED.

	Tins	cwts.	lbs.
Evaporated Milk	187		156 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chopped Ham	11		8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Luncheon Meat	16		17 $\frac{1}{4}$
Condensed Milk	33		28 $\frac{1}{4}$
Carrots	1		1
Prem	4		3
Steak & Kidney Pudding	1		1
Peas	58		61
Meat & Veg. Ration	10		10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jam	14		24 $\frac{3}{4}$
Marmalade	720		540
Vienna Sausage	14		20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Casserole Steak	9		9

Tomatoes	9		20 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon	3		3
Brisket Beef	3		12
Syrup			66
Salmon	4		4
Biscuits	1		7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pilchards	1		1
Pate de Foie Gras	3		1
Potatoes	1		1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Baked Beans	11		11
Damsons	1		1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pears	1		1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Apricots	1		1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Plums	3		5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dehydrated Mutton	31		651
Lambs Tongues	1		$\frac{3}{4}$
Tomatoe Puree	137		2791 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine			326
Sugar		13	309
Butter		2	52 $\frac{1}{4}$
Roast Beef			70
Ham			10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bacon			61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea			106
Kippers	5 Boxes		144
Boneless Meat			50
Oats			22
Breakfast Oats			144
Marshalls Frutella, &c.	134 $\frac{1}{2}$ Doz. Pkts.		324
Barley Flakes			12
Cheese			76 $\frac{1}{4}$
Semolina			2
Macaroni			28
Plain Flour			226
Self Raising Flour			144
Oatmeal			48
Peas			360
Sultanas			50
Raisins			50
Prunes			100
Lard		1	
Vinegar	2 Barrels		
Eggs	99 Dozen		
Totals	4 tons	0 cwts.	8 lbs.

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR 1947 WAS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:—

Material	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	127	6	2	0	718	0	9
Kitchen Waste	117	12	3	0	176	15	6
Textiles	2	8	0	0	14	8	0
Bones		1	0	0	0	5	9
Aluminium			2	24	0	13	4
Brass			2	4	0	10	0
Totals	247	9	2	0	£910	13	4

LIST OF SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING YEAR 1947:—

Month	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
January	19	19	3	0	66	18	1
February	18	5	3	0	73	12	11
March	20	18	3	0	73	14	0
April	14	17	0	0	54	11	6
May	20	12	3	0	67	7	11
June	26	1	0	0	101	16	0
July	21	7	2	8	86	13	4
August	24	18	3	0	81	6	4
September	23	4	1	0	83	16	10
October	21	10	3	20	77	16	4
November	18	11	1	0	76	3	8
December	17	1	3	0	66	16	5
Totals	247	9	2	0	£910	13	4

As in previous years my thanks are due to all who have helped towards the smooth working of the Department, to Doctor Carroll who has always been available and ready to help and advise. To Mr. Haworth who has steadily carried out his duties, and to Mrs. Hallam who, with unfailing tact and patience, has dealt with the many difficult and often distressed callers who come to the office for advice or help. Miss Morris, the junior member of our staff, is already proving an asset to the department.

The continued co-operation of all the Officers of other departments has done much to ease the way over the rough places, so, to these, and to all Members of the Council who have interested themselves in our activities and difficulties, I tender my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMAS ISHERWOOD,

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

